

ITEM	SUPPLEMENTARY	13
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.		49
COUNCIL MEETING	1982 09 07	

RE: LETTER FROM G. BEGIN, CHAIRMAN, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 - BURNABY
5325 KINCAID STREET, BURNABY, B.C., V5G 1W2
PREVENTIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Medical Health Officer be adopted.

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1982 September 02

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER
RE: PREVENTIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT staff assess the impact of the School Board's proposal to divest itself of the employment of community health nurses;
2. THAT staff be directed to work with senior officials of School District #41 in order to develop recommendations to the School Board and Council for the continuation of acceptable levels of community health services in this Municipality;
3. THAT the Council support the recommendation of the Board and direct staff to join Board officials in approaching the appropriate Provincial Ministries regarding funding.

REPORT

The Burnaby Health Department is responsible for a preventive community health program which is run on basic public health objectives recognized throughout Canada.

In Burnaby, the responsibility and funding has been shared between the School Board as employer of the nurses, and the Municipality as employer of other staff involved, and the Province. Up to this point this collaboration has been to the advantage of Burnaby's citizens. The question has been raised from time to time as to whether there should be any change in the way in which these services are administered and funded.

The issue has now re-emerged with particular reference to the services in the preventive program provided by the community health nurses presently employed by the School Board. More specifically, by letter to the Mayor and Council, the School Board has advised of its wish to divest itself beginning in 1983 of some \$6-700,000.00 of expense each year for the program.

In my opinion, and the opinion of public health professionals generally, preventive health programs are a vital part of our overall health care system, and a sound investment in the long term.

For the information of Council, the preventive program includes the following services:

- a) School Program (to be continued by the Board)
- health screening for vision, scoliosis, hearing and dental;
 - immunization and control of communicable diseases in schools;
 - health teaching to individuals, small groups, and in the classroom setting;
 - working with school-based teams to help children with social, emotional and physical problems;
 - home visits concerning health problems, consulting with parents, counselling, referrals to other agencies and follow-up;
 - supporting and assisting in the integration of handicapped children into the mainstream school setting;
 - contacting and working with many other professionals and agencies in the community offering support services to families;
 - providing first aid to school children;
- b) Community Health Program (the program in question)
- home visits to all newborn infants and revisits when required, with special emphasis on high risk babies;
 - teaching prenatal classes throughout the year;
 - provide health counselling and immunization services at Child Health Centres each month;
 - conduct health screening for 3 year olds;
 - visit all preschool facilities to inspect and advise on health concerns of young children;
 - provide support services to handicapped persons and their families;
 - visit senior citizens in their homes for assessment of needs, referrals and provision of some services;
 - conducting adult immunization clinics;
 - follow-up of communicable disease;
 - provide health education to community groups;
 - participate in education of post secondary students (eg. nursing training programs);
 - serve on community committees (eg. Family Life, Meals on Wheels, Information Centre, Families in Stress, etc.).

The \$6-700,000.00 which the Board no longer wishes to fund is for the cost of the community health program (part "b").

In addition, the services provided by the nurses in both programs are supported by the activities of others, employed by the Municipality:

- clerical services;
- nutritionist;
- two psychologists;
- speech therapist with services from the Hearing Clinic;
- public health inspectors;
- sessional physicians;
- volunteer coordinator.

In view of the School Board's letter and given the importance of the continuation of these necessary services it is my recommendation that steps be taken to assess the impact of the School Board's decision. Further, that staff be directed to work with the School Board officials to develop recommendations for the continuation of services and to approach the appropriate Provincial Ministries regarding funding.

Sally Hemming

S. L. Hemming, M.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.(C)
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER